(a) whether the Army Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur has supplied inferior quality rifles to the Border Security Force;

(b) if so, whether Border Security Force has accepted the same without any testing their quality;

(c) the number of rifles supplied to B.S.F. and other security forces and police found to be non-working;

(d) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has adversely remarked against the Home Ministry in this regard; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI INDERJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (c) Army Ordnance Depot, Jabalpur had supplied 10,000 Nos. of AK-47 rifles each to BSF and CRPF, out of which 196 Nos. and 20 Nos. were found to be defective respectively. As per the directions of the Ministry of Defence, normal inspection procedure of the weapons was dispensed with.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The matter has been taken up with Ministry of Defence to get the defective rifles replaced by the supplier.

Development of Coastal Rail Line

4099. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development of the coastal railway line between Ernakulam and Kayamkulam via. Alleppey; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) A survey for the proposed coastal line has been taken up. Further consideration of the project would be possible once the survey report becomes available.

Parcel Porters

4100. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parcel Porters working under the Labour Cooperative Societies on the Northern Railway have filed cases in High Court/Supreme Court for their absorption as Class IV employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration to abolish the contract system totally in Northern and South Eastern Railway to give social justice by way of giving permanent status to the parcel porters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following cases have been filed in the Supreme Court of India;

(i) Shri Raghavendra Gumast tha V/s Union of India and Others—One Petition.

(ii) National Federation of Railway Porters, Vendors and Bearers V/s Union of India—Four Petitions.

(iii) The National Federation of Railway Parcel Porters V/s Union of India and Others—One Petition.

(iv) National Federation of Railway Porters through its General Secretary and Others V/s Union of India—Three Petitions.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

New Stoppages

4101. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of new stoppages of express and other important trains provided at various stations in Kerala during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have received further representations for providing more stoppages of important/Express trains in Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) During 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96, 6, 6 and 16 additional stoppage of express trains have been provided in Kerala.

(b) and (c) A number of representations for stoppages are received at different levels of Railways administrations which are duly examined and action as found feasible and justified is taken.

Air Brake System

4102. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of trains running with air brake system, zone-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide air-brake system to some more trains; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?